— to step up investment in transmission to overcome mismatch between generation and transmission of power.

— to formulate and launch an action plan for energy conservation.

(e) Several State Governments have taken steps to reform their respective power sector. Orissa, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have constituted State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and West Bengal have notified the SERCs. Other States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have constituted the Selection Committees for selecting Chairperson and Members of the SERCs. Andhra Pradesh has enacted the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 which *inter alia* provides for constitution of SERC. Karnataka has drafted the Electricity Reforms Ordinance. Uttar Pradesh has also drafted its Electricity Bill. Both the Karnataka Ordinance and Uttar Pradesh Bill provide for creation of SERCs. Other States have also evinced interest towards reforms in general and setting up of SERCs in particular.

Power Projects of 8000 MWs

2424. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start work on projects totalling a capacity of about 8,000 MW; and

(b) if so, what are the details of these projects and the cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER. MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI PR. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) 68 thermal Projects aggregating to 31704 MW capacity and 62 hydro projects aggregating to 1S906 MW capacity are presently under construction in various parts of the country in Central, State and Private sectors. In so far as Ninth Plan is concerned, projects amounting to a capacity of 40425 MW are proposed to be added. The outlay for the 9th Plan as proposed by the Planning Commission is as under

Central Sector	Rs. 45591.05 crores
State Sector	Rs. 71227.00 crores

Loss of Nathpa Project

2425. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Tribune dated the 21st January, 1999 under the heading "Rupees 165 crores loss at Nathpa Project"; if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(b) who is responsible for this lapse and what action Government propose to take to overcome this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI PR. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation is executing the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project (1500 MW) in Himachal Pradesh. The World Bank has already agreed to extend the loan for the execution of the project till March, 2002. There will be no loss due to change in configuration of cement as referred to in the news item published in the Tribune dated 21st June, 1998, since the unit rate of concrete, specified in the Bill of Quantity as per Letter of Award remains the same irrespective of type of cementitious ingredients used for manufacture of concrete. As per project authorities, use of slag cement, instead of flyash, which is not free of cost, is not going to increase the project cost.

The use of fly ash was limited to about 1 Km in the Tunnel where hot water having temperature between 40-60 Celsius were encountered. Seepage water samples taken from this reach were found to contain chemicals like sulphides and Chlorides. In pursuance of the studies conducted by the Central Soil and Material Research Station (CSMRS) three options were recommended. Out of the three options one was for the use of Portland Pozzolona Cement with Flyash content of 30%. The Contractor opted to use Portland Pozzolona Cement (PPC) with 30% flyash content. Considering the fact that the use of PPC with flyash requires continuous quality checks both at the thermal plants as well as project site and in case of slag cement tasted manufactured

product conforming to desired specifications is available at the cement plant itself, the Project Authorities decided the use of slag cement instead of Pozzolonic cement with flyash.

It may, however, be stated that both alternative options i.e. use of Slag Cement and use of Portland Pozzolona Cement are available and any of these can be adopted depending upon technical requirements, quality checks, convenience of operations and technical codal equirements.

Shortage of coal in Badarpur Thermal Power Station

2426. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Badarpur Thermal Power Station is facing shortage of coal which has adversely affected its functioning;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the total requirement of BTPS for coal per day and the source of supply;

(d) the number of BTPS units which could not function properly due to want of coal during the last three years; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to make availability of coal to BTPS?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI PR. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Coal supplies to Badarpur Thermal Power Station during the period of December, 1998 to February, 1999 have been less than the actual consumption of coal. There was, however, no loss of generation due to coal shortage.

(c) The per day coal requirement of Badarpur Thermal Power Station is around 12,000 tonnes. Coal supplies to the power station is linked to the mines of CCL, BCCL and ECL (all subsidiaries of CIL) in Bihar and West Bengal. Coal is allocated on quarterly linkage basis as decided by Standing Linkage Committee of Ministry of Coal.

(d) During last three years (1995-96 to 1997-98), one or more units had to be shut down by rotation and the loss of generation due to inadequate availability of coal was as given below:

Year	Loss of generation (in MU)
1995-96	566.25
1996-97	715.75
1997-98	14.00

During the current year there has been no outage of units for coal shortage so far.

(e) Non availability of coal is due to inability of Badarpur Thermal Power Station to meet its payment obligations to coal companies and Railways. This is due to poor realisation of dues from Delhi Vidyut Board, the sole purchaser of power.

Efforts are consistently being made at the highest level in the Government to improve BTPS's energy bill realisation from DVB/Delhi Government.

Power sub-station in Azamgarh and Muzaffarnagar

2427. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many power sub-stations at Azarmgarh and Mujaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh are not functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to make these operational?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI PR. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The operation of sub-stations of State Electricity Boards falls under the purview of State Governments/State Electricity Boards. The Government of India does not have any information in this regard.